

## Message Text

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67-R

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-10 SY-10 SR-02 ORM-03 SCS-03

SCA-01 DPW-01 PRS-01 IO-03 PM-03 RSC-01 DRC-01 L-02

/062 W

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R 111554Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5597

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 14087

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, SY, LE

SUBJECT: SYRIAN JEWS IN LEBANON

REF: STATE 241781; USUN 5482

1. WHEN WE DISCUSSED THIS QUESTION WITH HEAD OF LOCAL JEWISH COMMUNITY ON NOV. 15, HE TOLD EMBOFF SOMETHING BIG WAS IN OFFING THAT WOULD LEAD TO DEPARTURE ALL SYRIAN JEWISH REFUGEES FROM LEBANON (BEIRUT 13245). HE COUNSELLED PATIENCE AND QUIET ON PART OF CONCERNED GOVTS AND OF CONCERNED JEWISH AND OTHER PRIVATE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS IN UNITED STATES AND ELSEWHERE. HEAD OF JEWISH COMMUNITY FEARED PUBLIC OUTCRY WOULD LEAD GOL AND SARG TAKE TOUGHER ATTITUDE TOWARD REFUGEES RATHER THAN MORE POSITIVE APPROACH.

2. KEY GOL SOURCE IN PRESIDENCY TOLD EMBOFF TEN DAYS AGO THAT GOL PLANS FOR DEPARTURE OF SYRIAN JEWISH REFUGEES FROM LEBANON HAD HIT MAJOR SNAG DUE TO LOOSE TALK BY GRAND RABBI OF LEBANON (SOURCE OF DWEK INFO CITED  
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PARA 1 USUN 5482). GRAND RABBI HAD REVEALED TO SUNNI

MOSLEM OFFICER IN LEBANESE ARMY PLAN TO ALLOW REFUGEES CROSS BORDER INTO ISRAEL AND HAD FURTHER STATED THAT PLAN HAD APPROVAL OF "HIGHEST LEVEL" IN GOL. SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT THIS QUITE TRUE, BUT THAT RESULTANT UPROAR IN MOSLEM CIRCLES IN ARMY AND AMONG MOSLEM LEADERS GENERALLY HAD OBLIGED GOL PUT PLAN ON ICE FOR TIME BEING. HOWEVER, AS SOON AS INTERNAL SITUATION CALMED DOWN, AND PROBLEM OF RELEASING TWO ISRAELI POW'S RESOLVED (THIS EXPECTED BE RESOLVED BY THEIR RETURN TO ISRAEL ON DEC. 12). SOURCE EXPECTED PLAN WOULD BE REACTIVATED. SOURCE SAID THIS INFO WOULD BE RELAYED TO GOI DURING TALKS ON RELEASE OF ISRAELI POW'S.

3. BOTH PRESIDENCY SOURCE AND HEAD OF LOCAL JEWISH COMMUNITY HAVE CONFIRMED DISAPPEARANCE OF TWO YOUNG REFUGEES, DESCRIBED BY LATTER AS UNWILLING FOLLOW ADVICE ON STAYING OUT OF TROUBLE AND OUT OF REACH OF SYRIAN AGENTS. GOL HAS MADE CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TRACE THEM, WITHOUT SUCCESS. HEAD OF JEWISH COMMUNITY HAD NOT ESTABLISHED THEIR WHEREABOUTS WHEN WE LAST SAW HIM.

4. HEAD OF LOCAL JEWISH COMMUNITY PRESENTLY IN GENEVA AND EXPECTED BACK DEC. 13. WE SHALL SPEAK TO HIM UPON RETURN TO GET UPDATE ON REFUGEE SITUATION. WE SHALL ALSO FOLLOW UP WITH PRESIDENCY SOURCE.

5. COMMENT: REQUEST INFO RE GOL PLANS OUTLINED ABOVE NOT RPT NOT BE PASSED TO ANYONE OUTSIDE DEPT.  
BUFFUM

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
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